

THE GLENDALE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT for 1895.

North Dr. Walker's Camp

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THE population of the district in 1891 was 10,156, and it has not changed greatly since then. The number of births during the year was 207 or 20·3 per 1,000 of the population, a decrease of 15 from the previous year. The average birth-rate of England and Wales is about 34 per 1,000, so that Glendale has a low birth-rate. The number of deaths from all causes was 144, being an increase of 19 as compared with 1894. The number of deaths per 1,000 is 14·1, an increase over that of the previous year which was 11·32. The average death-rate of England and Wales over a period of 10 years is 19·2. In 1894 the deaths from zymotic diseases were ·19 per 1,000, in 1895 they were ·59. In England and Wales the rate was 1·76 in 1894. The number of deaths under one year was 20, being at the rate of 96 per 1,000 of registered births, and an increase as compared with the number in 1894 which was 15, or 67·5 per 1000 births. The average rate in England and Wales over a period of ten years is 147 per 1000 births. Between one and five years of age the deaths were 11 ; between five and fifteen they were 6 ; between fifteen and twenty-five they were 7 ; between twenty-five and sixty-five they were 45 ; and those at sixty-five and upwards were 55, the last class including many over 80. Diphtheria caused 2 deaths ; erysipelas, 3 ; measles, 1 ; whooping cough, 3 ; phthisis, 10 ; acute bronchitis, pneumonia, and pleurisy, 18 ; heart disease,

25; injuries, 3. The total number of deaths under five years was 30; the total number at five years and upwards was 114. There were no deaths from small-pox, scarlatina, croup; none from typhus, typhoid, continued, relapsing, puerperal fever; none from cholera, diarrhœa, rheumatic fever.

Infant mortality, though much lower in Glendale than in the country as a whole, is still high, causing the death under one year, of 96 per 1000 of all births. The causes of this great death-rate are chiefly improper food and exposure to cold. In cases where the mother does not nurse her own child, it is often difficult to obtain good cow's milk, and various substitutes, most of them quite unsuitable, are used, the result being that the child is not nourished, and becomes a prey to diarrhœa and other diseases, and is the less able to resist exposure to cold and other lowering influences. The death-rate is not the only thing to be considered in estimating the healthiness of the district. Wherever there is a large proportion of young children or of old people, the death-rate, *ceteris paribus*, is high. The death-rate is always highest among children under 1 year, from 15 to 50 it is low, after 65 it is high. In the Glendale district there is a small proportion of children, but a large proportion of old people.

Compulsory notification of infectious disease has been in force in the Glendale district for two and a half years. It is now possible to ascertain the prevalence of the most serious kinds of infectious disease. Sanitary officers are thus enabled to point out to parents, school authorities and others, the importance of preventing communication with infected houses. They have an opportunity of investigating the causes of an outbreak at an early period, and are sometimes able to take measures which arrest the spread of the disease. In not a few instances among the cottagers I have found parents anxious to do all in their power to carry out instructions given for preventing the spread of disease in their own families and among their neighbours.

And a great deal can be done in this way by intelligent carefulness. However the great means—the one thing beyond all others—that will arrest and prevent the spread of infectious disease, is complete isolation. Unless some discovery is made which will prevent other infectious diseases, as vaccination prevents small-pox, and unless such a discovery were more perfectly applied than vaccination now is, isolation is what alone can be depended on to stamp out zymotic disease. And in cottages—even the best of them—where there is a large family of children, isolation is nearly always quite impracticable. There are seldom either separate rooms or an attendant who does not mingle with the rest of the family. The manner in which infectious diseases spread, the loss and misery caused by them, and the measures calculated to prevent them are but imperfectly known to the general public, “and even members of the medical profession who have not made a special study of the question hardly realise its importance.” In the principal towns great efforts are being made to adopt such measures as will prevent epidemics, but in many rural districts not much has hitherto been attempted; and it is believed that from such districts epidemics in towns frequently take their origin. Medical officers of health and sanitary inspectors may investigate the causes of epidemics, and give advice and instructions as to preventing and arresting them, but they cannot have great success if there is no hospital available where the first cases may be promptly isolated, and if there is no apparatus whereby disinfection may be effectually carried out. A person suffering from infectious disease, if placed in a hospital, is under the most favourable conditions for his own recovery and is prevented from becoming a danger to others. Hardly less important is it to have a disinfecting apparatus. It is only by this appliance that articles such as mattresses, carpets, woollen garments, &c., can be really disinfected. Efficient disinfectors can now be obtained at a much less cost than they could a few years ago. According to a report recently published,

since isolation hospitals have been used in Glasgow the deaths from scarlet fever have been only one fourth of what they were previously.

This is a subject regarding which I am from time to time questioned, and I have, within the last few days, received a communication from the principal Medical Officer of the Local Government Board in reference to it. I am aware that in these bad times there are great difficulties in the way of obtaining such expensive appliances as those I have spoken of. It is not only for infectious diseases that a small hospital would be a boon to the neighbourhood. In most cottages, no case of acute illness has favourable surroundings. Very often the only available room is that in which the family live, eat, and sleep. There is no one who possesses training or has time for nursing. The room is noisy with children and other members of the family going out and in; the cooking, baking, washing, and other necessary processes are carried on in the same room; so that rest, pure air, assiduous nursing are impossible. Besides the expense of building and maintaining a hospital, it is sometimes stated as an objection, that patients would not go to it, but would prefer staying in their own homes. It has been found, however, in other places that when a hospital is well managed and is comfortable, people are not long in recognising its advantages, and each patient who has derived benefit from it recommends it to his friends, and those who need such help come to feel the value of having pure air, quietness, proper food, proper temperature, good nursing, and greater chance of recovery. And I do not believe that the people of our district are less intelligent or less likely to appreciate what is good for them than their neighbours in other parts of the country. This subject has lately been engaging the attention of some gentlemen in the neighbourhood. They fully recognise the advantages which a hospital would confer on the district, and they have been considering whether it would be practicable to raise by voluntary efforts sufficient money to erect and main-

tain a small hospital similar to the one at Coldstream, which has been a conspicuous success. In the present depressed state of agriculture, I fear it is not to be expected that the Council will see its way either to erect a hospital or to maintain it. The way in which this great boon to the working classes seems most likely to be obtained is by voluntary effort. Such a beneficent undertaking would deserve the support and encouragement of all who could in any way give assistance.

During the past year the Council has sent a competent man to carry out measures of disinfection in cases where such assistance seemed necessary. This measure has been successful. The disease has not re-appeared in any instance where this has been done. By the advice of the Medical Officer the school at Kirk-Newton was closed for one week and subsequently for six weeks, on account of the prevalence of scarlet fever in families attending the school.

From time to time the Medical Officer made systematic inspections in the district besides those rendered necessary for special purposes.

In Wooler some improvements have been made. A new commodious public lodginghouse has been opened. The work of scavenging has been pretty well attended to, but there are many ashpits which cannot be kept in proper order on account of their size, depth, bad floors, and from not being roofed. The Medical Officer has recommended that a public slaughter house should be built in a suitable situation. This would be a great improvement.

At Lowick a scheme of drainage has been approved by the Council and is to be finished in spring. This is likely to be a great improvement to the village if private drains are properly laid down in connection, and provided that the scavenging and emptying of ashpits, privies, &c., are done regularly, thoroughly

and frequently. Two cottages were found to be in a specially bad state and were reported as unfit for habitation. The owner has intimated his intention to improve them. The shepherd's house at East Lilburn was reported as unfit for habitation. A new house is in process of being built At Shotton Cottages, where there have been cases of scarlet fever, diphtheria, and erysipelas, the drains were blocked, and the water supply was inconvenient and liable to contamination. New drains with traps, and with arrangements for flushing, have been put in. The water supply is not improved, but that is in contemplation, I am told. At Pawston it is proposed to put in new drains for the cottages.

At Bowmont Hill the water closet in the farm house has been put in order, and offices have been supplied for the cottages. At Branxton Hill two new cottages with suitable offices are being built. At Wark the scavenging has been fairly well done, and the village kept in better order than formerly. Excellent cottages with offices were completed at Old Yeavinger; at New Yeavinger a better water supply was brought; and at Canna Mill new privies were built. Repairs to the cottages and farm buildings at Canna Mill are contemplated during the present year. At Ford Hill cottages, new privies, coal houses, and ashpits were provided, and a cement channel was laid instead of a paved one which was in bad order. It is intended to improve the water supply. At Ford Wood House the water supply failed during the summer; this has been improved.

At Ford West Field excellent cottages have been provided; the number was reduced and the accommodation in each cottage was increased. New privies, ashpits, and coal houses were erected. At Ford Mills new privies and ashpits were built, and the cottages are to be remodelled. At Heatherslaw the cottages are in a bad state. It is intended to remodel them and to build new offices for them. At Sandyfords the farmhouse is to be repaired and enlarged. At the Encampment the cottages have

been much improved, and new privies, ashpits, coal houses and pigstyes have been built. At Blinkbonny improvements in connection with the cottages are contemplated. At Flodden the shepherd's house has been much improved. At Moneylaws some improvements are contemplated. At Letham Hill new pigstyes have been built for the cottages. At Sandy House a new water supply is to be brought. At West Learmouth a new water supply was brought, and arrangements have been made for a new supply for East Learmouth. At Wark Common a new surface sewer for the cottages was made. At Shedlaw also a new surface sewer was made for the cottages. At Wrangham the cottages were remodelled. At Weetwood Hill the cottages are in a bad state and have been reported. I am informed that improvements are contemplated and estimates have been received. At Hetton Hall the water supply has been improved. At Hetton House new ashpits, privies and coalhouses have been built. At Fowberry New Hall a new water supply has been brought. The cottages and offices at Coldmartin have been improved. The farmhouse, the cottages and offices at Fowberry Moor have been improved. To this place and also to Coldmartin it is proposed to bring a new water supply. At South Middleton new cottages have been commenced, and at North Middleton new offices to cottages have been made. At Middleton Hall a new farmhouse has been built and some improvements to the cottages have been made. At Yearle Hill the house has been renovated. At Bowsden West Farm the water supply has been improved. At Lilburn Hill three new cottages with offices were completed, four old ones being closed because their back walls were contiguous to the cattle folds. At South Lilburn three new cottages are in process of building, and four old ones will be closed. New sewage drains have been laid at Lilburn Grange. At Marden some of the cottages have been remodelled and enlarged, the rest of them are to be done this year. The cottages at Akeld have now been completed—the

whole having been renovated and enlarged. At Coupland and at Akeld Steads it is intended to alter and improve the cottages. At Wooler Brewery two privies have been built for the cottages. The water supply at Hay Farm has been improved. At Sunny-laws a new sewage drain has been made. At Langlee some improvements have been made, and further improvements to the house are to be carried out. A new sewage drain for the cottages at Old Bewick has been made. At Wooperton, cottages have been remodelled and enlarged and furnished with offices. A new drain is to be made for cottages at Roddam Rigg House, and at Roddam farmhouse also a new sewage drain is to be made. The water supply for the farms of East and West Horton and the cottages is often impure. At the source it appears to be good in quality and sufficient in quantity, but it is not protected from contamination at its source nor in its course. At Goldsleugh the shepherd's cottage is in a bad state. It was reported to the Council.

The improvements in the district during the past year have been considerable in number and importance. There are still, however, many small and inferior cottages, many cottages without privies and ashpits, a want which is becoming more felt and more complained of especially at the larger farms.

The Inspector of Nuisances has regularly reported his proceedings to the Medical Officer, and has made visits and inspections at his request, and has also kept him informed as to matters coming under his notice which required the Medical Officer's attention.

ROBERT WALKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

(A)

TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1895, in the GLENDALE RURAL SANITARY District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities

| NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these statistics; public institutions being shewn as separate localities. | MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES. | | | | | | | | MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|--|-------------|------------|-------------------|---------|--------------------|------------|------------|-----------|----|----|----------|------------|---------|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------|--------------------|--------|
| | At all ages | Under 1 year. | 1 and under 5 | 5 and under 15 | 15 and under 25. | 25 and under 65 | 65 and upwards. | | Smallpox. | Scarlatina. | Diphtheria | Membranous Croup. | FEVERS. | | | | | | | Cholera. | Erysipelas | Measles | Whooping Cough | Diarrhoea and Dysentery. | Rheumatic Fever | Phthisis. | Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy. | Heart Disease. | Injuries | All other Diseases | TOTAL. |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | Typhus. | Typhoid or Enteric | Continued. | Relapsing. | Puerperal | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) | (e) | (f) | (g) | (h) | (i) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | | |
| Wooler | 75 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 23 | 33 | Under 5 upwds. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 | .. | 8 | 14 | | | |
| Ford | 66 | 11 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 20 | 21 | Under 5 upwds | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 5 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 16 | | |
| Union Workhouse | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 1 | Under 5 upwds | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 2 | .. | | |
| TOTALS..... | 144 | 20 | 11 | 6 | 7 | 45 | 55 | Under 5 upwds | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | .. | 10 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 17 | 30 | | |
| | | | | | | | | | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 2 | .. | .. | 10 | 13 | 24 | 1 | 62 | 114 | | |

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the Year 1895, in the GLENDALE RURAL SANITARY District; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities

| NAMES OF LOCALITES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities. | POPULATION AT ALL AGES. | | Registered Births | Aged under 5 or over 5. | NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH. | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|---|-------------|------------|-------------------|---------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------|------------|
| | Census, 1891 | Estimated to middle of 1895. | | | Smallpox. | Scarlatina. | Diphtheria | Membranous Group. | FEVERS | | | | | Cholera | Erysipelas |
| | | | | | | | | | Typhus. | Enteric or Typhoid | Con- tinued. | Re- lapsing. | Puer- peral. | | |
| (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) | (e) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| Wooler | 5100 | 5100 | 107 | Under 5 5 upwds | .. | .. | 9 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 7 |
| Ford | 5033 | 5033 | 98 | Under 5 5 upwds | .. | 3 17 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 |
| Union Workhouse | 23 | 29 | 2 | Under 5 5 upwds | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| TOTALS | 10156 | 10162 | 207 | Under 5 5 upwds | .. | 3 17 | 11 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 11 |

AREA AND POPULATION OF THE DISTRICT

Area in Acres, 147,698.
Population (1891), 10,156.

